1/10/78

Mr. J.B.Stoner
Box 1211
Marietta, Ga. 30060

Dear Mr. Stoner,

Jim Lesar has sent me a copy of a short New York Times item that reports you have gone to court to enforce compliance with your FOI request of the FBI so you can have those records for use in your present defense. Jim suggests that I have information relating to whether or not you receive full compliance and that I should inform you of this.

You may remember that the first time you told me about FBI informants seeking to set you up was when you phoned me in about 1969, from Friendship Airport, as I now recall. Not long thereafter Department of Justice lawyers asked to speak to me about a Neutrality Act case because of information I had and interviews that were not under any restrictions imposed by those I had interviewed. I mentioned this matter of the FBI informants to them and as best I can now recall that this might well lead to embarrassment of the FBI.

The FBI has been stonewalling me for years under my FOI and Privacy Acts requests for its records on me. I have partial, only slight compliance. The de facto denial is under appeal but I am not now able to press it.

However, there are some things that I know to be true beyond question. The FBI twisted and distorted what the lawyers told it and actually reported that you and I were conspiring to defame the FBI. As it relates to me and this alleged conspiracy we are supposed to have engaged in the FBI then distributed its fabrications within the federal bureaucracy at the very least. This is certain. I believe they also did it in Tennessee at the time of the Ray evidentiary hearing.

While what I have falls short of 100% knowledge relating to that TV show on which we both were with the former Department of Justice man and Gerold Frank in St. Louis, I do know that the St. Louis FBI office was informed of this not in connection with your or me but in connection with Bevel. You may recall he did not show up. What I do know - and this also is beyond question - is that what the St. Louis Field Office was told amounts to a directive that it cover that TV show. If not more. You therefore should have received records on it.

On that fabricated conspiracy of the FBI's, they decided against interviewing either you or me because we are both bad people to them. They alerted the Savannah Field Office with regard to you, so you should have those records and other records that link you and me.

Jim thinks it would be quite helpful all around, especially to Jimmy, if you would be kind enough to send him or me copies of any records you have obtained or may obtain that relate to the two of us. We might be able to use these in a current FOIA case in federal court, to show withholding from me.

The FBI was the beneficiary of the surveillances of Jimmy in Memphis and elsewhere. It therefore has such records that involve you, quite possibly also in connection with me. This should include copies of intercepted lawyer-client correspondence to and from you. I know that the sheriff gave this kind of thing to the FBI. No question here, either. Ditto for the prosecutor's office, too - and they got copies of all Ray's mail. Some with you that we obtained is in the evidentiary hearing record.

If you have already obtained any records that relate to me or appear to if you will be good enough to send me copies promptly I will let you know immediately if they tell me of other records that are still withheld.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg